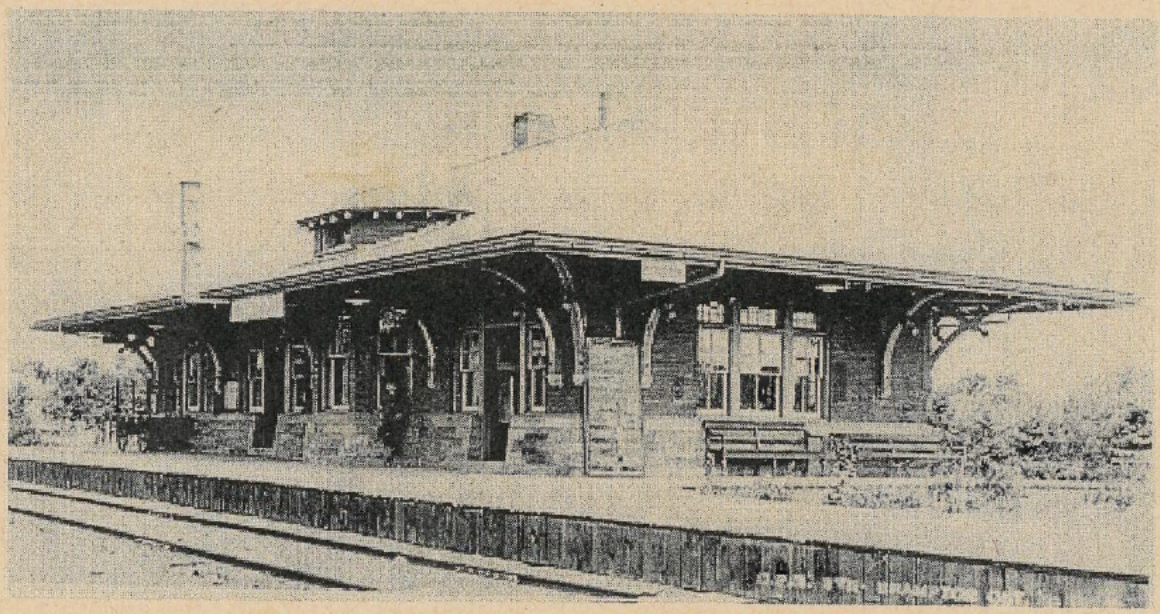
Newsletter 2 January /February, 1999

Brampton Historical Society

Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History



Inaugural Meeting:

Cyril Clark Library Theatre, 20 Loafer's Lake Lane,
January 27, 1999, 7:30 p.m.

Speaker: Ron Brown, well known author
Topic: Ghost Railways of Ontario
"Nobody knows Ontario like Ron Brown" *CBC Radio*

and ...

Election of Society Executive

Brampton Historical Society

Interim Executive

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Recording Secretary	Legal Advisor
Paul Hunt	Tricia Carlos	Bruce Marshall	Paul Willoughby	Mel Watson

Committees

Constitution	Financial	Architectural	Liaison*
Paul Hunt	Denyse Churchill	Michael Avis	Susan Barnes
Anne Phillips	Heather Gunter	Gerry Clarkson	Tricia Carlos
Paul Willoughby	Bruce Marshall		Denyse Churchill
			Angela Duchesne
			Dorothy Willis

* Publicity, Membership, Newsletter, Outreach, Programme/Special Events

ALL ABOARD!!!! New members, welcome to the BHS!

Dr. Kathleen Armitage	Michael Avis	Susan Barnes	Doris Brettell	Colin Campbell
Joyce Campbell	Tricia Carlos	Denyse Churchill	Paul Churchill	Gerry Clarkson
Jane Connor	Rowena Cooper	Russell Cooper	Bob Crawford	Angela Duschesne
Heather Gunter	Paul Hunt	Bruce Marshall	Susan Marshall	Jay P. Mehta
Iris Maclean	Peter Murphy	Glenna Patch	Dan Pauze	Anne Phillips
Lois Russell	Michael Seaman	Bryan Tacoma	Cathy Tacoma	James Townsend
Dale Ward	Ann Ward	Mel Watson	Heather Watson	Dorothy Willis
Paul Willoughby	Cathy Willoughby			

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

The holiday season always brings back memories of the past. The Christmas cards with the picture of a cutter going down a winding country lane reminds us of the gentler times that were enjoyed before the 400 series of highways were built. The Brampton Historical Society has been formed to assist everyone to remember how things used to be, and how they are as we continue to make history day by day. What we do and make as we pass through life is the history of tomorrow. Let's make sure our contribution is worthwhile, and that we preserve the legacy of things passed on to us by our forefathers.

What better time to kick off the official inauguration of the Brampton Historical Society. We are planning a meeting with a guest speaker who will be bringing us a slide show. Then we will be holding the election of the board for 1999. We are looking forward to a lot of exciting things this year before we get into the next millennium. The details about this meeting are contained in another part of this newsletter. Please be sure to attend, bringing a friend.

Best wishes to everyone for this coming year.

Paul

Cover Photo: This is the train station that we are trying to save. It served as the CP station for Brampton from 1902 to 1970. The express addition was built in 1912. The building was first moved in 1981 and then disassembled in 1998.

"OLD ONTARIO" GHOSTBUSTER: RON BROWN

Ron Brown is coming to town. The well-known author of books about old Ontario back roads, villages and railways will be the guest speaker at the first general meeting of the Brampton Historical Society on January 27, 1999. A modern-day explorer of bygone landscapes, both rural and urban, Ron Brown uses his photos, maps and tales, to transport us back to the 'old days', a favourite haunt for history buffs. Through his words, pulse the engines of the past as they carry us on a pilgrammage through early villages, farms and towns.

Ron Brown is a tour guide for those of us who want to visit places with a rich history and learn new stories about old places. He will be a welcome feature of our meeting since many historical hobbyists have enjoyed his books and followed his trails through Ontario over the past few years.

Ron Brown has written the following books:

The Train Doesn't Stop Here Any More	50 Unusual Things To See In Ontario
Toronto's Lost Villages	50 More Unusual Things To See In Ontario
Vanished Villages	Ghost Towns of Ontario; A Field Guide
Back Roads of Ontario	Ghost Railways of Ontario

For active and "armchair" travellers, Ron Brown's books have provided a historical perspective and context to places, events and people of those old Ontario days that we treasure so much. The Brampton Historical Society is expecting a large turnout, so mark January 27 on your calendars and join us at Cyril Clark Library Theatre, 20 Loafer's Lake Lane at 7:30 p.m.

Non-members will be requested to pay $2.00 at the INAUGURAL MEETING which will be refunded on purchase of membership, which will be available at the meeting.

Election of Brampton Historical Society Executive

In the fall of 1998, some planning meetings took place. An interim council was elected for the purpose of providing some structure to the Society and planning the inaugural meeting.
The Executive consists of the following elected positions::

President	Recording Secretary
Vice President	Corresponding Secretary
Treasurer	Legal Advisor

Nominations are to be sent in advance by phoning 905-457-4365.
NOMINATIONS FOR THESE POSITIONS ARE DUE BY 6 P.M. ON JANUARY 21!!!!

Also on the executive are the Committee Chairs. The present committees are:

Constitution creating and maintaining the BHS constitution.
Financial taking care of matters relating to the financial health of the BHS.
Architectural looking out for endangered buildings and planning courses of action.
Liaison an umbrella group of small subcommittees:

Publicity	making the community aware of the existence and activities of the BHS.
Membership	keeping records of membership i.e. hopefully, YOU!
Newsletter	writing and publishing the official vehicle of communication of the BHS.
Outreach	raising our profile, creating a positive image, making history more accessible.
Programme/Special Events	reaching the membership and community through its activities.

"Winter has come at last and bob-sleighing and broken limbs will now be the order of the day. The doctors should certainly be thankful, as it is an ill wind that blows nobody good."
Bolton Enterprise, January 11, 1889

SNELGROVE HOUSES ON HIT LIST - SOON RUBBED OUT?

There stands a plaque. Well, there will be a plaque where two houses once stood.

Many of us have driven by the corner of Mayfield Road and Highway 10, location of the last two Edwardian homes in the historic core of the village of Snelgrove. There is a proposal for a service station, convenience store and restaurant/take out stand to be erected on this site.

We live in a temporary and "throw away" society, worshipping speed and convenience. Although we recycle and repair when necessary, our instincts shout, "damn the slow and go, go, go!" Let's check our consciences for a moment, folks.

The disregard and destruction of an artifact or architecture is positively abhorrent and alarming to people who adhere to the principles of conservation and education. None of us is against progress. Rather, we see the heritage significance of buildings, traditions and events as a part of our culture today.

The following has been taken from the Brampton Heritage Board presentation to the City of Brampton Planning and Development Committee meeting on December 2, 1998:

> The history of the settlement in Snelgrove dates back to c. 1826. Originally known as Edmonton, like many early communities, it provided accommodation and services for travellers along the "Centre Road" which we know as Hurontario Street. According to the Illustrated Historical Atlas of Peel County in 1877, Edmonton had a population of 200.
>
> The Credit Valley Railroad (later Canadian Pacific) which established a station about 1880, meant a boom for farmers and their business. However, the earlier-established commercial prosperity of the village declined since ease of transportation brought commercial opportunities to Brampton and Toronto. There was also a name change.
>
> By the 1880's the city of Edmonton, Alberta had overtaken its Ontario namesake in growth and population, and the same name complicated the railway system. Opposition was expressed by Edmonton, Ontario. For a long time the Snell family was the largest family and landowner in the surrounding area. The C.P.R. decreed the station "should henceforth be Snelgrove". The Post Office followed their example.

We have seen Snelgrove decline over the last few years due to the growth of Brampton and the widening of Highway 10. There also remains one church and scattered residences on the outskirts of the once historic village of Snelgrove.

Not included in the proposed Zoning By-law amendment is the Baptist Church. For the time being, that is. Will the church follow the houses to the chopping block in the name of progress?

Part of the conservation principle is recycle and reuse. This principle has been demonstrated with architecture and land. Old Britannia School House teaches present-day students about "the olden days". The church at Black Creek Pioneer Village has been restored and renders services today. Our beautiful Gage Park provides a background for recreational and pictorial events, even royal visits. It sits in peaceful surroundings amid our bustling city, proving old can become new again.

There are history buffs and scholars, antique-lovers, architects, artists, archeologists placing a high historical and educational value on irreplaceable artifacts and architecture. When the cry to save the little church at Snelgrove goes up, you will hear them loud and clear.

More about the Baptist church in a future edition of this newsletter.

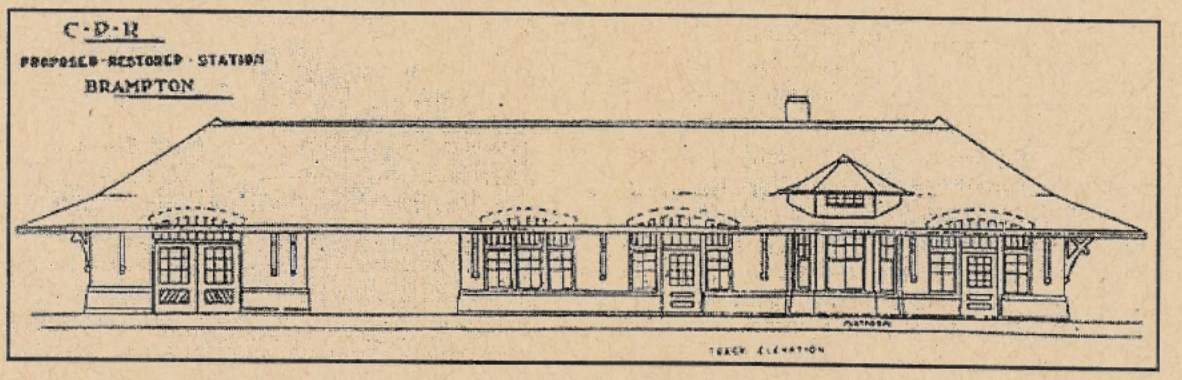
"Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe."
H.G.Wells

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME …

The DALE autographed rose was chosen as the logo for our budding Brampton Historical Society. Known throughout North America and beyond as the "Flower Town of Canada", Brampton arose (pun intended) from humble, rural roots , much like the rose of our logo.

Brampton was only a village, with a population of slightly more than one hundred, in 1860, when Harry Dale planted the first seed. His dugout type of greenhouse on north Main Street became a flourishing business. A century later, twenty-five acres of flowers bloomed, putting Brampton "on the map" earning it a reputation as the "Flower Town of Canada". Only a perfect bloom received the autograph on its leaf.

Although most of the land under glass has succumbed to housing development, we pay tribute to the floral industry. May the rose's perfection be reflected in our performance as a historical society!



STATIONary CHANGES … C.P. STATION PUT TO BED

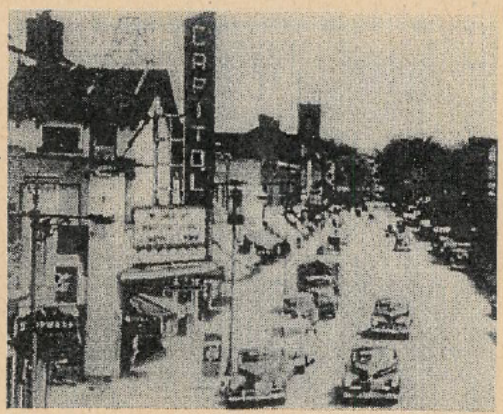
Michael Seaman of the Brampton Heritage Board reports that the C.P. Station parts are now safe, secure and dry, until the day of its reawakening and restoration as a historical showpiece of our community.

Volunteers gave of their time to dismantle and document parts of the station, prior to storage. Donated funds helped pay for the relocation of the station components and purchase of tarpaulins to protect the stones and bricks from the elements.

Community assistance is anticipated in the future when a new and permanent home for the station is found. A suitable target date could be January, 2000. In the meantime, we shall continue to seek proposals for land to house the station, solicit funds for restoration and communicate to the community of Brampton the station story and its possible millennium restoration.

CAPITOL CRIME?

What will be the verdict on the fate of the Heritage Theatre, formally known as the Capitol Theatre?
According to the recent City of Brampton information flyer which was distributed to households in December., there could be something happening to another cherished landmark. The city is planning major renovations to the structure in the coming year. Although the building is undoubtedly a heritage building, heritage groups have not been consulted at the present time. Hopefully consultation will occur before it's too late to make meaningful commentary.



Let's hear your comments on the reconstruction!

BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTORY

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E-mail: bhs1998@hotmail.com

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Telephone: 905-451-9051
Fax: 905-451-4931
E-mail: somersd@region.peel.on.ca
URL: http://www.region.peel.on.ca/heritage/museum.html

LORNE SCOTS REGIMENTAL MUSEUM
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HALTON-PEEL BRANCH,
ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
2441 Lakeshore Road West
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Oakville, Ontario
L6L 6M9

FRIENDS OF BOVAIRD HOUSE
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L6T 3S1
905-874-2804 or 905-874-2808

YOU ARE INVITED TO SHARE WITH US YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ANECDOTES, COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
Send contributions to:

Brampton Historical Society Newsletter
c/o Dorothy Willis
[redacted]
E-mail: dorothy@netcom.ca

Application for membership in the **BRAMPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** for the 1999 calendar year:

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

Telephone Number :_____

Additional Family Members:_____

Signature:_____

☐ **I enclose a membership fee of $20.00 per household** _____

☐ **I wish to enclose an additional donation to the Society of $** _____

Please mail cheque or money order to:
Brampton Historical Society
c/o Denyse Churchill, [redacted]

Non-members will be requested to pay $2.00 at the INAUGURAL MEETING which will be refunded on purchase of membership, which will be available at the meeting.

IN THE KNOW

DID YOU KNOW?

BRAMPTON'S BEGINNINGS From the Story of John Lynch, Reeve of the Village of Brampton, 1853:

> Brampton was a very pretty and interesting place in the spring of 1820. The Etobicoke meandering through the streets, its banks green with leeks, but spotted with early spring flowers.
>
> There were then only two streets in Brampton, Hurontario Street and the side road between lots five and six, now Queen Street, and the Etobicoke proceeded on its course, wandering and curving, crossing and re-crossing the streets as if in doubt of the proper course to Lake Ontario. Unfortunately the Etobicoke was not a good fishing stream. It was not a stream that suited the very fastidious taste of the trout, and the salmon and suckers were stopped by mill dams, one near the mouth of the stream on the property of the Hon. Samuel Smith: another of Mr. Silverthorn near Dundas Street. But the Etobicoke as a running stream, was valuable and interesting, and the salmon and suckers would sometimes still force their way up to and through Brampton, and Mr. Archibald Pickard used to catch many of them on their return towards the sea.

Still Looking for Answers to our First Newsletter Queries

DO YOU KNOW ...

How many mayors have followed John Haggert, the first mayor of Brampton?

DO YOU HAVE ...

A favourite personal memory about the Brampton Excelsior Lacrosse team? It can be any lacrosse story, personal or otherwise. You have over a hundred years of lacrosse history to choose from.

DO YOU KNOW ...

A Brampton area building that has been saved from extinction and restored as a treasure from our past ?

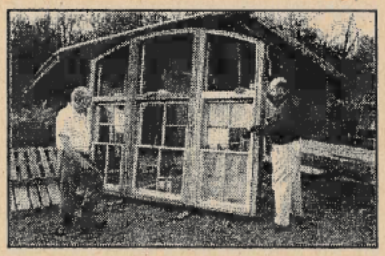
BHS KUDOS TO...

Jay P. Mehta for printing our first BHS newsletter last November, 1998.
Glamour Photography
Brampton Mall
905-454-2439

Bryan Tacoma for financing the printing of our brochures which have now been delivered.
Construction Connection
905-453-5785

Founder Paul for being the driving force behind BHS. You deserve a trip to Mexico!

All those who have so generously donated time and money to save the C.P. STATION.



Photos made available through the generosity of member and photographer Heather Gunter .